

Silencing the Jingoos.

Truly, the jingoos who preach war with Japan have fallen upon hard times. Events of the last few weeks have combined to discredit them entirely. The new treaty effected at Washington was a severe blow to them, but not final. Even though it went through with the avowed endorsement of the Pacific coast states, it did not silence the agitators. They came back with that scare story of an ulterior alliance between Mexico and Japan as the real reason for the president sending troops to the Texas border.

The president considered this canard serious enough to demand his personal attention, so he sent for the Japanese minister and to him declared that it was without foundation in fact and expressed the wish that this word be transmitted to the emperor of Japan. The emperor's reply is an expression of implicit faith in the friendship of our government and a reaffirming of good will toward us. Neither government has suspected the other of sinister motives or movements, the most complete friendship exists between the two nations and under the provisions of the new treaty they ought to come into even closer relations.

All this series of events ought to suffice to allay the most sensitive feelings and convince our people that this persistent agitation of trouble between the United States and Japan is the irrational utterance of irresponsible persons. Even on the Pacific coast the majority sentiment is against it. Seattle refused to take seriously the last big anti-Japanese demonstration and the California legislature has defeated the alien land law bill, designed to discriminate against the orientals in the right of owning realty. All these things must have their influence and do. They ought to put an end to this pernicious jingoism for the best interests of the two countries cannot but suffer indirectly by its continuation.

A Credit Mark for the Governor.

The taxpayers of Douglas county owe Governor Aldrich a credit mark for interposing his veto to stop the salary grab that was to give four deputy county attorneys not less than \$2,000 apiece for devoting a portion of their time to public service.

The Bee expressed its opinion vigorously of this bill at the time it was log-rolled through the legislature, urging the same reasons against it that are embodied in the governor's veto message. With the possible exception of the chief deputy none of the deputy county attorneys have any good reason to complain of being either underpaid or overworked, and this bill would never have gotten started except for the fact that one of the deputies is the law partner of one of our state senators.

The Law and Fatal Fires.

New York authorities are making a determined effort to fix the blame for the terrible fire which cost 150 lives. Grand jury investigations have been conducted with that end in view. As near as has been established this holocaust was due to some form of criminal negligence. If so it ought to be possible to fix the blame, and that done, the penalty of the law should follow automatically.

In such matters we are accustomed to be all too lenient in this country. We have gone into paroxysms of grief when hundreds of lives were snuffed out by fire, or mine damp, but not yet has a wholesome example been made. It has not been due to the impossibility of ascertaining that someone was to blame, nor, in fact, always of finding who that someone was. It has been due more often to a maudlin misconception, which allows overwrought sympathy to outweigh justice.

When the law plainly specifies that doors to such places as that destroyed in New York and to great theaters, such as the one in whose destruction 600 lives were lost in Chicago, shall swing outward and because of neglect they fall to swing that way, as a result of which human lives are sacrificed, the law should be allowed to operate irrespective of persons. Good-fellowship, political pull or personal standing is not a safe influence to yield indulgences and dispensations to the culprits. Possibly if the penalty were more often applied those responsible would be more cautious and fewer such disasters would ensue.

Seniority Rule in the Senate.

If reports from political seers at Washington may be relied upon, Mr. Bryan probably is appealing in vain for a coalition of democratic and republican progressive senators to set aside the seniority rule in the reorganization of that body. According to expert opinion the republican progressives, who will hold the balance of power in the senate, have decided not to disturb this rule against which they inveighed when they were a powerless minority.

This would seem to be a most natural position for them to take, for in the coming congress many of them will have ranking claims of which they would deprive themselves if the seniority rule were abolished. For the sake of consistency they may be strongly tempted to help overturn the rule, but as practical politicians their better judgment will restrain such action. It makes all the difference in the world "whose ox is gored." The insurgent republicans have thought that by ignoring the rule of seniority they could defeat Senator Penrose in his succession of Senator Aldrich as head of the finance committee, but when they have figured up what such a victory would cost them, to say nothing of uncertainty in achieving it, they have, it is understood, listened to different counsel.

Under the seniority rule La Follette, Cummins, Clapp, Bourne, Bristow and others of their group will come in for desirable committee places. It may mean a stronger hold for them on legislation than would be possible were the old rule, that formerly denied choice places to these aspiring young senators, effaced.

Mr. Bryan is out with a plea to "progressive democrats" in the senate to unite with progressive republicans to secure committees "not merely to pay personal compliments, but to carry out the people's will." Perhaps, however, even that can be done to the satisfaction of the progressive republicans without disturbing this heretofore offensive rule.

A Democratic Dilemma.

A plague of place hunters has already appeared on the horizon of democratic hopes at Washington, foreboding more trouble than the wheel horses of the party like to think about. The hungry horde of office-seekers has already pitched its tent in Washington, ready to march against the keepers of the pie counter as soon as congress convenes next week in extra session.

Fairly reliable observers count at least three men for every job and as the positions number 500, that means 1,500 applicants. How are the other 1,000 to be appeased? Ah, that is the question that just now haunts so many of these majority members of the house, under whose reorganization the distribution is to be made.

Wise and seasoned politicians have not deceived themselves as to the danger that lurks in the wake of a disappointed office-seeker. Champ Clark, as speaker, may change front on every vital issue that comes before the house and alienate half his democratic brethren in the house, but Champ Clark would rather a dozen times do that than to offend these long-suffering hangers-on for a government job.

Distribution of chairmanships and committees and the reorganization of the house all are minor matters as compared with this task of parceling out 500 plums to 1,500 mouths. The democrat who can successfully solve that problem is the democrat the party needs just now as its Moses to lead it out of the wilderness.

A Murder and Its Lesson.

The unprovoked murder by highwaymen of a prominent and respected business man like Herman B. Cohn has shocked the whole community profoundly. When a man who has shown himself, as Mr. Cohn has, to be enterprising and progressive; who has attended strictly to his own business and has thus earned and held the esteem of all who knew him, is shot down without warning it naturally suggests the question, Who may be the next victim of such a crime?

Under the circumstances people are bound to speculate on what has not been done to give us better police protection, and where the fault lies. Omaha unquestionably has a smaller police department than it ought to have. In fact, we have been spending half again as much money on our fire department as on our police department. Another serious blunder was made by the last democratic legislature, which increased the pay of policemen all around without increasing the police fund, and thus made it necessary actually to reduce the number of policemen available for active duty just at the time when the demand for police protection was steadily increasing. We are convinced that Omaha has enjoyed remarkably efficient police service from the small force maintained, but that offers no excuse for not having a metropolitan police department adequate to the needs of a city of 125,000 people scattered over twenty-five square miles.

Ahead of the Game.

The democratic bosses guiding the reins on the legislative majority at Lincoln are trying to put through a congressional redistricting measure planned specially for the purpose of helping the democrats hold the districts they have and capture one or two now represented at Washington by republicans.

Why should the boundaries of Nebraska's congressional districts be redrawn at this time? Congress has as yet made no reapportionment on the new census. Reapportionment, when it comes, may reduce Nebraska's quota of six to five, in which event the work of redistricting would have to be done all over again by the next legislature.

The real reason why the democratic bosses want the job done right away is that they are in control at present and decidedly uncertain whether they will be in control two years hence. They would redistrict now in order to edge up on the congressional election next year, and chance having one branch of the legislature, or the governor, to block any changes not to their liking later.

Our advice to republicans in the legislature is not to let the democrats get ahead of the game. Let us keep congressional districts in Nebraska just as they are until congress makes the new apportionment, when redistricting can be done intelligently and once for all until the next succeeding census.

The Bee has been urging from time to time more systematic work for the improvement of our public roads, and the enactment of legislation necessary to this purpose. The Bee was among the first to advocate the creation for Nebraska of a state highway commis-

sioner to supervise and control the road work done by the different counties so as to make it fit together. Nebraska will be left far behind in the good roads movement if the present legislature fails to do its duty in this respect.

President Woodbury for the water company insists that they are eager and anxious to complete the sale of the water plant to the city, but that they are not willing to turn over their property in exchange for another law suit. In other words, the water company seems to have stolen the Water board's slogan "Not next year, or next month, but now."

Among other things that conduce to the increase of crime is the leniency of some of our judges who have gotten the habit of turning convicted offenders loose with suspended sentences to go out and repeat their performances.

How times change. Here is our amiable democratic contemporary burying an important announcement from Mr. Bryan in an obscure place on the third page, while giving Roosevelt front page space.

An Exception Noted.

Washington, D. C. Mr. Bryan says that the newspapers shouldn't print stories of crimes, but how much advertising would he ever have received if they hadn't played up that one of '87?

On with the Game.

Wall Street Journal. If every government official who played the stock market were fired, it would be necessary to use the capitol for a poor-house and the congressional library for a soup kitchen.

Serves the Whole Race.

Springfield Republican. In writing to Dr. Booker T. Washington that impressive note of personal esteem and confidence, President Taft has performed an invaluable service to the whole negro race in America.

Reform Before Promotion.

Chicago Tribune. Buffalo Bill might have a better chance of going to the United States senate if he would agree to modify the wild western character of his goatee. It wouldn't harmonize with a senatorial toga.

National Economy.

New York Tribune. President Taft's economy commission thinks that \$200,000 can be saved annually in the preparation of the government's hydrographic charts and weather bureau maps by the present no-ordinance of the work done by two bureaus of two departments, and the natural consequences are friction and waste. The economy commission will have its hands full rooting out duplication and unnecessarily divided responsibility in the work of the federal service.

BRYAN AND FOSS IN 1912.

Featherless Chanteuler and His Prospective Crowning Mate.

Hartford (Conn.) Times (dem.). In 1906 it was Bryan and Sowell, in 1907 it was Bryan and Davis, in 1908 it was Bryan and Kern. Few people carry in their memories the names of all the running mates of the Nebraska man in his various presidential campaigns. As preparations are now making for the selection of a fourth vice presidential candidate on a party ticket it becomes worth while to "call of the roll."

Mr. Bryan has been in Boston lately, has delivered his lecture, has met his friends and admirers in that section and is reported to be in a well-pleased state of mind as a result of this visit. Mr. Bryan's special happiness is that he has discovered through his friend, G. F. Williams, an available man for the second place on the ticket in 1912 Eugene Noble Foss is his name—"Bryan and Foss" is to be the ticket. Mr. Foss has been in the democratic party just long enough (a little over a year), and is looked to just exactly the right degree with democratic "principles" to make him an ideal associate of the Nebraska leader.

It is true that the thrice defeated candidate makes the announcement everywhere he goes that he is not a presidential candidate. That is merely a part of the game—merely the harmless, permissible dissimulation of the man who loves his country and his people too well to go back on them when they come again to demand the quadrennial sacrifice. Once he did keep his promise not to be a candidate. That was in 1904 and how miserably he failed. It means to give us such another catastrophe by letting the burden of broad shoulders fall once more on his own broad shoulders.

Should anything happen to disarrange this program Mr. Bryan stands ready to name the man who shall be nominated in his place. He may consent, if necessary, to the nomination of Woodrow Wilson, although not to that of Judson Harmon. His real preference, however, is to take the nomination himself, and in that event regards the Massachusetts governor as the most available man to nominate for vice president. The perpetual candidate regards plutocrats with deep distrust at all times, except when they are associated with him in a presidential campaign. At such times he can endure any amount of indelicacy with them. Whether he will be in the same mood toward Mr. Foss in the latter run for the governorship again this year and is beaten at the polls is a matter not necessary to be considered at present.

People Talked About

In one of his merry moods Bill Nye piped off the situation thusly: "Spring, spring, you giddy young thing."

The twelve passengers carried by that French aeroplane weighed 1,315 pounds, or an average of about 109 1/2 pounds, thus showing that they were small and select parties.

Mrs. W. C. Brown, wife of the president of the New York Central, says she is prepared to do the milking on her husband's 700-acre Iowa farm, "and it would not be the first time, either," she adds.

Mrs. Emma M. Nakulina is a water rights commissioner under the territorial government in Hawaii. Mrs. Nakulina is an American woman, granddaughter of Captain Metcalf of the Eleanor. She lives in Kailua. A six months' residence and absence from the state when desired during that term, brings the Reno divorce mill down to such simple requirements that not a murmur of dissatisfaction is heard from old or prospective customers.

Seats are selling as low as from 15 to 25 each on one of the grandstands that overlook the coronation grounds. American who care nothing for royalty and consider it all nonsense, will not find the cost of living too high to prevent them from contributing to the English enterprise.

The Bee's Letter Box

Contributions on timely subjects not exceeding two hundred words are invited from our readers.

Good Roads Laws. FREMONT, Neb., March 2.—To the Editor of The Bee: This is a cry for help from the Nebraska Good Roads association in its fight for the passage of the joint committee road bills now before the legislature. I am assuming that you are in accord with the spirit of these measures. The house has indefinitely postponed two of the three important measures of the joint committee and has passed for third reading the county highway commissioner bill with many amendments greatly weakening it. The senate has passed to third reading three of the measures, viz: the state highway commission bill, state aid for county bill, the county highway commissioner bill, and it is hoped, that by the time these bills come up again in the house for consideration that enough light can be thrown upon the subject to enable the house to pass the three measures as they stand.

I do not hesitate to make this request for help because I know that your paper is vitally interested in the general prosperity of this state, and we believe there are no measures before the legislature now that will mean so much to the people as will these good road measures should they be enacted into laws. The very idea of Nebraska expending every year approximately \$2,000,000 on her highways with two-and-a-half dollar most of supervisors of the expenditures is ridiculous in the extreme, and that is exactly the condition under which our highways are constructed and maintained. I also wish to call your attention to H. R. 673 which ought to be defeated. DAN V. STEPHENS, Chairman Legislative Committee Nebraska Good Roads Association.

Wants Physical 'Phone Connection. OMAHA, March 2.—To the Editor of The Bee: I have carefully read the masterly argument in favor of a legalized telephone monopoly as presented by the president of the Nebraska Independent Telephone system. In forceful, dignified language he asserts the necessity of a telephone monopoly because:

First—The present laws do not prevent the absorption of the smaller companies. Second—If merger is not legalized, competition will be abolished by illegal means. Third—There is no way at present of preserving the integrity of toll connections. Fourth—it will abolish the dual telephone annoyance.

Let us examine these arguments in order. The present Junkin anti-trust law in the plainest conceivable language prohibits the creation of monopolies. I have never heard a doubt as to the inclusion of telephone in its prohibitions until within the last sixty days. If there is any doubt, amend the present bills to prohibit, not permit such monopoly. In the second place we are threatened that unless monopoly is permitted, in pursuance of law it will come in spite of law. The Bell trust has been trying just that for the last fifteen years in this state. Today it has its back to the wall fighting for its life in Nebraska.

The third and fourth arguments should be considered together, and the answer is plain and simple—compulsory physical connection under commission supervision. LYSLE I. ABBOTT.

Crime Breeding Pool Halls.

OMAHA, March 2.—To the Editor of The Bee: I believe the Cohn murder was committed, not by a seasoned footpad or highwayman, but by a novice. I believe many similar crimes in this city of recent years have been committed by youths, whose experience in crime has been brief. As we have found out in many instances, some of these youths are actuated by no criminal instinct other than to get hold of a little money. Many of them are boys in the habit of playing pool and want this money for that purpose. They go out to get it by lawless methods, not intending to commit murder, but are unable to control either a hair-trigger pistol or a weak human impulse. Of course, it makes no difference so far as the blackness of the crime is concerned. These boys who infest pool rooms have no great amount of money or resources, so when the gambling spirit has complete hold on them, they cut loose and the first thing they know they have perhaps stained their hands with the blood of an innocent victim. It is an appalling situation when such men as Mr. Cohn are shot down in cold blood. What is the remedy? If the fault, or any part of it, lies in these pool rooms, which are multiplying with amazing rapidity, isn't the remedy in restriction of these abominable places? I believe they are the most vicious influence in the city, because they entice and ensnare the young. We should do something to curb them and that at once. A LAW-ABIDING CITIZEN.

Mr. Chadek's Explanation.

OMAHA, March 2.—To the Editor of The Bee: I feel that the account in The Bee of the meeting gotten up by the River-view improvement club has misrepresented my position as to the protest made against changing the name of the Forest school. James Foss brought the petitions, which had been signed by Mr. Timmerman to my place and asked permission to have them left there for signers. He told me there was to be a meeting Saturday night, when I carried the petitions over to them across the street, but had nothing to say and took no other part in the meeting. I am a Bohemian myself, and could have no objection whatever to the naming of the school after Edward Rosewater, and do not want to be charged with being the cause of any protest. JOHN CHADEK.

A Tragic Epitaph.

Philadelphia Record. Captain "Jack" Philip is dead, and now the Texas, with which he distinguished himself at Santiago, has been sacrificed to gunnery practice by newer and very much more powerful battleships. But the world will never forget that in the hour of victory Philip checked the triumphant shouts of his men, calling out: "Don't cheer boys; the poor devils are dying!"

An Alerp Uplift.

Baltimore America. A western railroad is going to put soda fountains on its summer trains. This will, without doubt, add to its financial valuation.

The snappy, rich flavor of gingerbread depends upon the ginger. Use TONE BROS SPICES. CANNON BRAND. Get the best gingerbread and cookies the hills ever ate. Don't buy cheap ginger. Get Tone Bros' it's fresh and strong in sealed packages. Grocers, etc. TONE BROS., Des Moines, Ia.

Sixty Years the Standard. DR. PALM'S CREAM BAKING POWDER. A Cream of Tartar Powder Made from Grapes NO ALUM. The hair and costume of the present day? "I hear she married beneath her." "Yes, her husband plays a wretched game of bridge."—Washington Herald. Stella—What causes her insomnia? Stella—She takes so many beauty exercises before retiring that it is morning when she finishes—Harper's Bazar. "I see," said Staters, "that our old friend Blakes had a strong article in one of the Boston papers the other day." "I've never believed that of old Bill. What was it?" "A recipe for pickled onions." said Staters—Harper's Weekly. SONNETS OF A CAR CONDUCTOR. Chicago News. Gee, this is tough! She promised me to come. Out on a picture show tonight, and oh! I dunno where I'm goin' to raise the dough. For love has put my bank book on the bum. My purse is now as empty as a drum. Nary a single red have I to show. But I must have a seed or two, and so I'll go to the bank to look around for some. I haven't got a pal that I can touch. For any more than two bits at a stroke, And I will need a dozen times as much. Say, cully, ain't it hades to be broke? Well, as I must dig up the change so where's there's nothing left but knockin' d some fares. Last night I dreamed the darndest bun of rot. Love as a trolley car I seemed to see. Little 'n' up the pile for fair, and gee. The crowd on board was such a mushy lot. Coolin' away like ringdoves in a cot! And dinky little Cudd seemed to be The motorman. Meanwhile, his majesty Old Harry was collectin' fares, I thought. And I was stittin' holdin' Mamie's hand. Swappin' a heap of love-dovey guff. Pullin' the soft soap on to beat the band. And handin' out a raft of hotshots the demand for them? No! How do you manage to have them show the face you had twenty years ago?

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